

## Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDE-00

SOE-02 ARA-10 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03

NASA-01 NEA-11 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01

DOE-15 CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICA-11 NRC-05 /165 W

-----012655 211651Z /43

P 211610Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3373

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USNATO

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

DIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, PEPR, SOPN, UR, US

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF FOREIGN REACTION

TO PRAVDA EDITORIAL

REF: (A) MOSCOW 14041, (B) MOSCOW 13662

SUMMARY: SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF FOREIGN REACTION TO JUNE 17 PRAVDA EDITORIAL HAS EMPHASIZED SERIOUSNESS OF "WARNING" CONVEYED BY EDITORIAL AND ALSO DOMESTIC U.S. CRITICISM OF ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY "CHANGES" WHICH HAVE CAUSED WORSENING OF U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS. RELATED SOVIET TV COVERAGE HAS GONE FURTHER IN CRITICISM OF ADMINISTRATION THAN HAS PRESS MATERIAL. SECRETARY'S TESTIMONY ON HILL IS REPORTED MORE OR LESS OBJECTIVELY. END SUMMARY.

1. SOVIET MEDIA COVERAGE OF FOREIGN REACTION TO JUNE 17 PRAVDA EDITORIAL ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY (REF A) HAS FOCUSED ON COMMENTS BY VARIOUS U.S. SOURCES, ALTHOUGH SOME EUROPEAN AND ASIAN SOURCES HAVE ALSO BEEN MENTIONED. FAIRLY LENGTHY TASS ARTICLES IN EACH ISSUE OF JUNE 18-21 CENTRAL PRESS AND PORTION OF PRAVDA'S JUNE 19 "INTERNATIONAL WEEK" COLUMN BY S. VYSHNEVSKIY HAVE EMPHASIZED FOLLOWING MAJOR THEMES:

-- PRAVDA EDITORIAL REPRESENTED A SERIOUS SOVIET ANSWER TO PRESIDENT'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH AND TO DELIBERATE STEPS BY ADMINISTRATION TO TAKE TOUGH LINE TOWARD SOVIET UNION. PRAVDA ARTICLE IS BEING CAREFULLY STUDIED IN WASHINGTON AND LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICIAL U.S. RESPONSE WILL BE FORTHCOMING.

-- U.S. POLITICAL LEADERS (SENATOR MCGOVERN AND NUMEROUS OTHERS) AND U.S. MEDIA ARE SHARPLY CRITICAL OF ADMINISTRATION'S POLICY CHANGES TOWARD M#3 9;835 UNION. THESE POLICY CHANGES ARE FRAUGHT WITH DANGER FOR U.S. AND FOR THE WORLD.

-- THE EDITORIAL LEFT THE DOOR OPEN FOR AN IMPROVEMENT IN U.S.-SOVIET RELATIONS AND FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A SUCCESSFUL SALT AGREEMENT (IN WHAT IS PERHAPS MORE OF A FOOTNOTE THAN A THEME, NEWSDAY IS CITED ON THE BENEFICIAL EFFECT WHICH WOULD RESULT FROM LIFTING DISCRIMINATORY TRADE BARRIERS). SUCH A CONCLUSION IS SUPPORTED, ACCORDING TO PUBLIC OPINION POLLS, BY THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF AMERICANS.

2. IN A LENGTHY COMMENTARY ON JUNE 20 EVENING TV NEWS PROGRAM, VREMYA, IZVESTIYA POLITICAL WRITER S. KONDRASHOV REPEATED MANY OF ABOVE THEMES. IN ADDITION, HE WENT OVER THE GROUND COVERED BY THE PRAVDA EDITORIAL ITSELF, HITTING U.S. POLICIES WITH REGARD TO NATO, SALT, ZAIRE AND PRC (IN LAST CONTEXT, KONDRASHOV MENTIONED "UNDISGUISED ANTI-SOVIETISM"

OF BRZEZINSKI). IN GENERAL, KONDRASHOV WAS MORE  
HARSH ON THE ADMINISTRATION AND ON PRESIDENT  
CARTER PERSONALLY THAN WAS THE PRAVDA EDITORIAL.  
FOR EXAMPLE, THE PRESIDENT WAS ACCUSED BY KONDRASHOV  
OF HAVING ACTING AS THOUGH HE WERE NOT BOUND BY  
THE VLADIVOSTOK AGREEMENT ON SALT. IN ANOTHER  
EXAMPLE, KONDRASHOV SAID THAT THE IMPRESSION WAS  
BEING FORMED THAT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION WAS  
MOVING TOWARD AN "ALLIANCE" WITH THE ENEMIES OF  
DETENTE. IN CONTEXT OF LAST ITEM, VYSHNEVSKIY'S  
JUNE 19 PRAVDA ARTICLE CITED RICHARD SCAMMON TO  
EFFECT THAT ADMINISTRATION WAS FALLING MORE AND  
MORE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF "RIGHTIST, CONSERVATIVE  
FORCES."

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3. IN GENERAL, PRC THEME OF PRAVDA EDITORIAL HAS NOT BEEN REPLAYED BY SOVIET MEDIA AS EXTENSIVELY AS OTHER THEMES. A NOTABLE EXCEPTION WAS PRC PORTION OF WEEKLY PANORAMA TV NEWS REVIEW ON JUNE 18. AGAINST FILM BACKGROUND OF PLA TROOPS, TANKS AND PLANES ON MANEUVERS, COMMENTATOR STRESSED PRC SEARCH FOR ARMS SUPPLIES AROUND THE WORLD, OMINOUSLY NOTED BRZEZINSKI PRC VISIT COMMENT ON U.S.-PRC PARALLEL INTERESTS AND REPEATED STATEMENT FROM PRAVDA EDITORIAL (MIS-LABELED AS ALEKSANDROV ARTICLE, REF B) ABOUT FUTILITY OF U.S.-PRC BLOC CONSTRUCTED ON AN ANTI-SOVIET BASIS. MUSIC ACCOMPANYING ALL THIS WAS STRAIGHT OUT OF SOVIET MOVIES ON MONGOL HORDE THEME - CACAPHONY, STACCATO POUNDING OF WAR DRUMS, AND - MOST EVOCATIVE TO RUSSIANS - SOUND OF CHURCH BELL AS A TOCSIN. VIEWER COULD ALMOST SMELL THE SMOKE OF BATTLE. TOTAL IMPACT WAS NOT ONLY TO DRAMATIZE "YELLOW PERIL" IDEA, BUT TO LINK U.S. WITH IT.

4. IN CONTRAST, TASS WASHINGTON REPORT OF SECRETARY'S HOUSE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE TESTIMONY (JUNE 21 PRAVDA) IS, BY PRESENT SOVIET STANDARDS, REMARKABLY OBJECTIVE. LENGTHY SUMMARY OF SECRETARY'S REMARKS DELETES ONLY AFRICA PORTION OF HIS COMMENTS AND USUAL TASS TENDENTIOUS EDITORIALIZING IS SAVED FOR FINAL PARAGRAPH AND IS LESS OFFENSIVE THAN IS OFTEN CASE. SECRETARY'S COMMENT ON PRAVDA EDITORIAL IS QUOTED IN FULL. MATLOCK

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